

February, 16, 2007

Business and Labor Committee
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

Members of the Business and Labor Committee:

I am employed as a MEDICAL ASSISTANT (MA). I am writing to voice my opposition to House Bill #605. My opposition most specifically concerns the following:

37-3-102 (6) We already have a shortage of RNs, LPNs, and CMAs. Why would you want to put good people out of work? Many people who are employed in medical assistant positions may be Armed Services Medics, CNAs, EMTs, and other allied healthcare professionals who have been hired by, trained by, and continuously supervised by physicians. Who do you plan to fill these positions in health care offices across Montana, if you require medical assistants to be "certified"? The big shortage of health care workers is still to come. We should keep who we have, those good, caring, and knowledgeable people who are focused on the care of our patients.

37-3-104 2a This section takes away the right to do invasive procedures, administer medications, and perform allergy testing. As long as the physician who is delegating the medical duties is comfortable with the medical assistant administering medications and performing other invasive procedures, it should be left to the delegated practice of the physician. Administration of medication in unit doses puts a higher cost on the purchase of medications by the physician's office, instead of being able to utilize the lesser expensive multi-dose vials. These increased costs will ultimately be passed on to the patient.

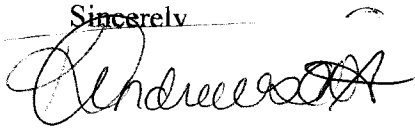
37-3-104 2b Requires the physician to be on site when MAs perform clinical duties. Many times we start our day while the physician is rounding at the hospital. We are talking about patient care. The ability of the physician to delegate medical interventions to the MA allows patient care to go on while the physician is otherwise busy seeing patients, and allows us to appropriately manage our patients and time.

37-3-104 3a and 3b Takes away the ability of the medical assistant to monitor a patient who has already had IV therapy or conscious sedation initiated. It also takes away the ability of the ma to insert IV lines, administer IV meds, or blood products. Again, we work under the delegated practice of a physician. No physician is willing to put his or her license on the line to allow an untrained person to perform these duties.

I am strongly opposed to HB 605, as it limits the scope of CMAs practice, as well as eliminate the jobs of many medical assistants who have the appropriate experience, training, and skills to perform the job who do not hold a certification. Many of us hold

allied health care licenses in other areas that meet or exceed these requirements. This bill will severely limit the availability of efficient, cost effective health care in Montana. We are individuals who truly care about our patients.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andrew A.", written over a horizontal line.

February 19, 2007

Business and Labor Committee
Capitol Building
Helena, Montana 59620

Members of the Business and Labor Committee,

I am a MEDICAL ASSISTANT (MA). I oppose House Bill # 605. I am opposed to #6, in 37-3-102. We already have a shortage of RNs, LPNs and CMAs. Why would you want to put good people out of work? Some of these Medical Assistants may be Armed Services Medics, CNAs, EMTs and other Healthcare unlicensed professionals who have been hired and trained by physicians.. Who is going to fill these jobs in the physicians offices in Montana, if you require everyone to be certified.. The big shortage for health care workers are still to come. Let's keep who we have. We are good, caring and knowledgeable people.

I am opposed to Section 2 37-3-104 as it destroys the right of the Board of Medical Examiners to adopt and refine by rule, the scope of practice of the Medical Assistant.

I am opposed to Section 2a of 37-3-104 as it takes away the right to do invasive procedures, administering medication and allergy testing. I specifically don't agree with #2:viii, administering medication in "unit" dosages.

I am opposed to 2b in this subsection, that requires the physician or podiatrist to be on site when we do any of our clinical duties. We start our day as they finish their rounds at the hospital. We are talking patient care.

I am opposed to #3a and b in this subsection.

Now 4 a., b, and c since 1998 all CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS have to complete a two year CAAHEP or ABHES accredited, competency based course of study with extern ship and have to have to pass a national certification exam. Medical Assistants are required to recertify every five years by the American Association of Medical Assistants. CMAs must acquire 60 hours of continuing education to recertify and must have a current CPR certification.

I oppose House Bill # 605, as it limits the scope of our (CMAs) practice and would limit the availability of efficient, cost effective healthcare in Montana.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Schumacher
Medical Assistant

February 19, 2007

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Capitol Building
Helena, Montana 59620

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Sincerely,

Jouna Lada -
Please consider grandfather
Clause

February 19,2007

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Capitol Building
Helena, Montana 59620

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I oppose House Bill # 605, as it limits the scope of our (CMAs) practice and would limit the availability of efficient, cost effective healthcare in Montana.

Sincerely,

Pam Beerman



Big Sky Family Medicine

*A Department of Kalispell Regional Medical Center
202 Conway Drive Suite 200, Kalispell, MT 59901
Telephone (406) 752-8433 Fax (406) 756-7483

RECEIVED

FEB 16 2007

MT MEDICAL BOARD

Jonathan M. Anderson, M.D.
Diplomat, ABFP, AAFP
Family Practice - Pediatrics

Anne E. Armstrong, PA-C
Certified Physician Assistant
Master of Science
Family Practice

Linh P. Barinowski, PA-C
Certified Physician Assistant
Master of Health Sciences
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Lisa A. Fleischer, M.D.
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Family Practice - Pediatrics

Kenneth L. Jonas, M.D.
Diplomat, ABFP, AAFP
Family Practice - Pediatrics

Jason J. Schmidt, M.D.
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Scott Seager, PA-C
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Master of Science
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Master of Science, Nursing
Family Practice - Pediatrics

Jill S. Thorn, PA-C
Certified Physician Assistant
Master of Science
Family Practices

Richard C. Wise, M.D.
Diplomat, ABFP, AAFP
Family Practice - Pediatrics
Addiction Medicine

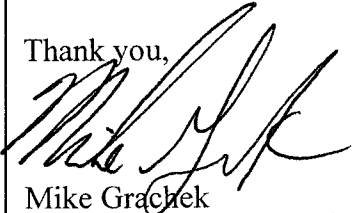
February 14, 2007

Business and Labor Committee
Capitol Building
Helena, MT 59620

Members of the Business and Labor Committee;

I manage a family practice clinic in Kalispell and have experienced many periods when finding a qualified clinical staff member was very difficult. The proposed House Bill #605 will make this process that much harder. I strongly urge you to vote NO for proposed House Bill #605. This bill would be detrimental, if passed, in providing Montanans with quality healthcare. Please do not let HB605 pass.

Thank you,


Mike Grachek



Big Sky Family Medicine

*A Department of Kalispell Regional Medical Center
202 Conway Drive Suite 200, Kalispell, MT 59901
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Certified Physician Assistant
Master of Science
Family Practices

Richard C. Wise, M.D.
Diplomat, ABFP, AAFP
Family Practice
Addiction Medicine

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a Certified Medical Assistant for 5 years now. We have also worked very closely with the Doctors in our clinic and they rely upon us and our abilities very much. That is why we stay updated on our continuing education. We have always been a professional group who does what we are trained for by our supervising health care providers, always within the limits our right to practice. Our goal is to put the patient first and give them the highest standard of health care they can receive. Our talents should not be hindered.

Margaret M. Karolak

Margaret M. Karolak, CMA
Big Sky Family Medicine
Kalispell, MT

FAMILY MEDICINE

RONALD A. MILLER, M.D.

JAY S. ERICKSON, M.D.

JOHN N. KALBFLEISCH, M.D.

DANIEL E. MUNZING, M.D.

JON A. MILLER, M.D.

CHRISTOPHER J. HOLDHUSEN, M.D.



JENNIE W. ECKSTROM, M.D.

KATHRYN H. NEFF, M.D.

PAUL R. REEB, M.D.

ANITA L. BEACH, N.P.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

SUZANNE D. DANIELL, M.D.

ELIZABETH M. WHITE, M.D.

Diplomates, American Board of Family Practice - Diplomates, American Board of Internal Medicine - Clinical Faculty University of Washington School of Medicine

1111 Baker Avenue • Whitefish, Montana 59937 • Phone 406.862.2515 • Fax 406.862.0726

February 12, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

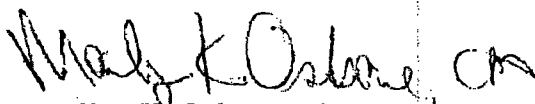
We are writing out of concern for House Bill No. 605 introduced by J. Keane pertaining to Medical Assistants. Once again the Nursing Board is trying to take over in defining what a Certified Medical Assistant can and cannot do, which has already been established in (24.156.640) Medical Assistants - Administrative Rules of Montana.

We are particularly interested in Section 2 (2)(a)(viii) administering medication in a unit dosage. Our clinic has many of its vaccines in unit dosing, but allergy shots which come in multi-dose vials are the exception. It is well within our scope of practice to draw up a syringe of allergy medicine and administer it to the patient, just as we do with any vaccine. Our controlled substance (Demerol) also comes in a multi-dose vial. We are also able to draw the specified amount given to us by our physician and administer it to the patient. Our clinic has a system of checks set in place for quality control monitoring. We must log in all controlled substances and must have another professional (nurse or physician) check the syringe that is drawn up for correct dosing.

As CMA's (Certified Medical Assistants) we know we have the knowledge to only do what is in our scope of practice and our physician knows what we are capable of doing and will not ask more of us than what we have education for. That is why we are constantly going to seminars for our CEU's (Continuing Education Units) to stay on top of the ever-changing medical field.

Section 5 of the bill is very important to CMA's because of the importance it puts on patient safety. We should all pay special attention to this. We should be proud to display our credentials that we have worked so hard for and strive to maintain by our Continuing Education.

Sincerely,


Marilyn K. Osborne, CMA



Elizabeth Askew, CMA

February 16, 2007



Business and Labor Committee
2007 Legislature
Helena, MT

Dear Members of the Business and Labor Committee,

As a Certified Medical Assistant practicing in Montana, we urge you to vote against House Bill 605. This bill will severely restrict the scope of practice for medical assistants in Montana. It will impact the cost and availability of healthcare for the residents of Montana.

This bill restricts medical assistants from performing any routine tasks unless a physician or podiatrist is "Onsite", in the office, which would greatly impact the clinics that we work in. It also takes away the right to do any invasive procedures, such as ear lavage, mini catheters, enemas, etc., administering medications, or allergy testing, which we are trained to do. It also says that we can only use single dose injections, which would increase the cost to the clinics and then increase the cost to the patient.

It mentions nothing about prescription refills that we call in for physicians, is this allowed? We do have to take pharmacology, anatomy, and physiology to receive our CMA certification. We also can receive certification to perform IV's and we agree with the Board Of Medical Examiners that this should be done under "Direct Supervision" of a physician or podiatrist.

We feel the current legislation and Rules that the Board of Medical Examiners worked on, sufficiently sets guidelines for physicians and podiatrist to delegate administrative and clinical tasks to medical assistants.

We are proud to display our certification and have no problems with background checks, as most of our physicians already require them of all their employees before they are hired.

We urge you to vote against House Bill 605 as it will negatively impact the cost and availability of healthcare in Montana, where there is already a shortage of RNs, LPNs, and CMAs, and the additional expense of hiring RNs/ LPNs, could potentially cause the failure of clinics in some rural Montana communities.

Sincerely,

490 3RD Ave. West N.
KALISPELL, MT 59901

Dear Chairman and Members of the Business and Industry Committee:

I am writing this as a physician concerned about the proposal HD605. As a physician in rural MT it is extremely difficult to find qualified staff to work in our office. It is my firm belief that this bill would not serve to improve the quality of care provided in physician offices, and would make finding staff for my office ever more difficult, if not impossible. As you well know our state is in the midst of a nursing shortage. The medical assistants who work in medical offices are governed under the legal and ethical responsibility of the physician who supervises the care they provide. This would inject a government bureaucracy into this relationship and hamstring physicians from hiring people who they believe are qualified to work in their office because they don't have what some designate as the "proper credentials". If we have a care access problem in rural MT now, HD605 will lead to an access crisis. I hope you will allow the physicians of this state to continue to have the authority to designate those who are qualified to care for their patients in their offices, and see HD605 for the "turf" protecting measure that it is designed to be. The physicians of this state are the ones who are held accountable for the quality of care that is provided to their patients. I believe we are doing that already, HD 605 is not necessary, nor is it desired.

Respectfully,

Kirby Peden, M.D.
Family Physician
Big Timber, MT

February, 16, 2007

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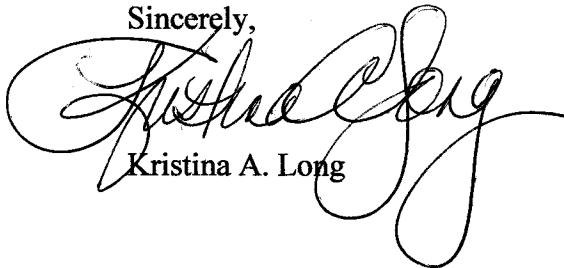
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I am strongly opposed to HB 605, as it limits the scope of CMAs practice, as well as eliminate the jobs of many medical assistants who have the appropriate experience, training, and skills to perform the job who do not hold a certification. Many of us hold

allied health care licenses in other areas that meet or exceed these requirements. This bill will severely limit the availability of efficient, cost effective health care in Montana. We are individuals who truly care about our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Long", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "Kristina A. Long".

Kristina A. Long

February 12, 2007

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to tell you my opinion regarding HB 605. I have been a Certified Medical Assistant for over 20 years and have worked with numerous Medical Assistants. In my experience, the Medical Assistants are very dedicated people and serious about the care they give to the public. They are required to be current on CPR; they need to continuously enhance their knowledge through continuing education and are overseen by the Doctor to be giving the utmost care to his or her patients.

I also teach the Clinical Practicum classes for the Flathead Valley Community College's Medical Assistant Program. I can assure you that the students get very thorough training in preparation for their job working with the public in health care settings. Some of the classes are Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology, First Aid, Medical Law and Ethics, and Pharmacology as well as two semesters of Clinical Practicum classes that teach the very important medical skills and techniques used in the professional settings. They have a full semester of "hands on" practice in the doctor's office working with other Medical Assistants before they graduate. This is a two year Associate of Applied Science Degree.

I do not agree on several of the issues brought up by the Nursing Association. Medical Assistants have been used in the doctor's offices for many years and often tutored by the doctor himself or herself. They are knowledgeable, competent, ethical and professional in how they approach their responsibilities in the workplace. To limit the skills that a Medical Assistant can do, and has been professionally trained to do, is not only hurting the Physicians but the public as well.

Please do not let the Nursing Association come between the good care that Medical Assistants currently give to people. They are highly trained and competent to do the jobs currently allowed in their scope of practice.

Thank you for your consideration,



Chris Degenhardt, CMA
1144 8th Ave E.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Examples:

Flu Vaccine	Multi dose only	
B-12	Multi dose only	
Kenalog	approx \$37.00 per vial 5 dose	\$15.00 per Unit dose

Section 2

5c. As a Certified Medical Assistant to keep my certification I need to have 60 hours of education every 5 years. The hours need to be in the categories of administrative, clinical, and general.

5d. I do agree that my certification should be on file with the office manager and or the physician and that I must show my renewal of my certification. But I should not have to have it on display in the workplace.

5e. The criminal background checks are being done on all new graduates at the 2 institutions that have programs in Montana for medical assistants. But my question is, how many other healthcare workers have to have a criminal background check? I feel that if the employer wants a criminal background check, they can request it themselves, but I don't feel it should be a law.

The premise of all the controversy about medical assistants whether they are or are not certified is "patient safety" brought on by the Montana Board of Nursing. We are healthcare workers and we love what we do. We would never do anything to harm our patients. My question to you is, how many cases have you heard of medical assistants being involved with harming a patient, and how many cases have you heard of where nurses have been involved in harming patients.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion,

Diane E. Sather, CMA

Unlicensed Healthcare



Big Sky Family Medicine
 *A Department of Kalispell Regional Medical Center
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 Telephone (406) 752-8433 Fax (406) 756-7483

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Lisa P. Burrows, PA-C
 Certified Physician Assistant
 Master of Health Sciences
 Family Practice

Lisa A. Fischer, M.D.
 Fellow AAFP, Diplomate ABFP
 Family Practice - Pediatrics

Keneth L. Jorun, M.D.
 Diplomate, ABFP, AAFP
 Family Practice - Pediatrics

James J. Schmitt, M.D.
 Diplomate AAFP
 Family Practice - Pediatrics

Scott Seager, PA-C
 Certified Physician Assistant
 Master of Science
 Family Practice

Peggy M. Stratton, APRN-C
 Certified Family Nurse Practitioner
 Master of Science, Nursing
 Family Practice - Pediatrics

Jill S. Thoren, PA-C
 Certified Physician Assistant
 Master of Science
 Family Practice

Richard C. Wise, M.D.
 Diplomate, ABFP, AAFP
 Family Practice - Pediatrics
 Addiction Medicine

February 14, 2007

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Thank you,


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